Cyclic Inventory Program
Royal Gorge Field Office

This concept of a cyclic inventory program is consistent with national interagency paleontology management policy and reflective of the US Forest Service "partners in time" program. Specifically the overall concept and program proposed here is discussed in 2003 BLM publication "America's Priceless Heritage" and the 2000 report "Fossils on Federal and Indian Lands". Within this second report, principle 7 states that fossil management requires public involvement and participation.

The Royal Gorge Field Office's cyclic inventory program will cover the field office area where each year a different area would have a full inventory of up to 400 acres. Specifically, we are working towards organizing an active volunteer based program to assist our office with inventory and management of our paleontology resources. The program will include; cyclic field inventories, data recordation using agreed upon standards, field mapping using Trimble GPS units, and digital mapping using GIS equipment. Through the use of computer hardware, software, and training, a database will be assembled to help manage paleontology resources and related research and interpretive projects. Much of this data and localities have been long neglected and are further "at-risk" without better gathering and management of the data. Sensitive information would be shared with designated museums, universities, and selected agencies such as SHPO while less sensitive information would be made public. Overall this would be similar to the "Partners in Time" program under USFS administration.

Program Mechanics

The group of volunteers will be led by a paleontologist with a current paleontology permit with the BLM. This permit will establish credentials and how materials are handled.

Reconnaissance Survey Teams of 4 or 5 Volunteers

1. Teams would work with digital cameras and GPS units. The GPS units would have the recording information that is typically in a form. A backup form would be used at the same time in case technical glitches occurred.
2. At the end of the day, the GPS data collected would be downloaded into a laptop.
3. Digital photographs would also be downloaded and they would be connected to the GPS points.
4. If possible, a projector and screen would be used to allow all participants to view the discoveries made during that day.